

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 03-1240.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented herein is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3 - 9 remain in this application. Claim 2 is cancelled.

In the Office Action dated August 20, 2003, all pending claims 1-9 of the current application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Nomura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,991) in view of Lam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,942,383). It is respectfully argued that the current invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Nomura et al., either alone or in combination with Lam et al. The applicant would like to point out the following distinctive features of the pressure sensor of the present invention:

- (a) the pressure-sensitive section is affixed to the base by a fluoric elastomer.
- (b) the sensor package which encloses the pressure-sensitive section is affixed by a fluoric elastomer.
- (c) the pressure-sensitive section and a lead are covered by a fluoric gel, and the fluoric elastomer which affixes the pressure-sensitive section and/or the sensor package to the base is harder after solidification than the fluoric gel.

In contrast, neither Nomura et al. nor Lam et al. describe the above features (b) and (c) of the present invention. That is, materials of the resin which affixes the pressure-sensitive section and/or the sensor package to the base are not disclosed in Nomura et al., as recognized in para. 2 of the Office Action by the Examiner. While Lam et al. describes use of a fluorosilicone as an elastomeric adhesive for affixing the pressure-sensitive section to the base, the feature of the current invention that the sensor package is affixed to the base by the resin is not disclosed. Moreover, in Nomura et al., the resin that covers the pressure-sensitive section is not the fluoric gel, but a silicone resin, as described in col. 7, lines 26 to 28 of Nomura et al. In Lam et al., the same elastomeric adhesive is used for affixing the pressure-sensitive section to the base and for covering the pressure-sensitive section. *See* claim 5; col. 3 lines 29-33 of the specification; and Fig. 3 of Lam et al. In addition, the hardness of the silicone resin described in Nomura et al. and that of the elastomeric adhesive in Lam et al. is not

described and cannot be compared from the description and details given in either of these references. They both lack any description or suggestion that the silicone resin described in Nomura et al. or the elastomeric adhesive in Lam et al. is harder after solidification than the fluorocarbon gel. Therefore, the above features (b) and (c) of the present invention are not obvious in view of Nomura et al. and Lam et al., either alone or in combination.

As explained above, the cited reference fail to teach certain important features of the claimed pressure sensor, as recited in the amended claims, and said features have a direct bearing on the advantages of the present invention. In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in the amended claims, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art references. Entry of this amendment and an early favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested. Should any questions arise concerning this Amendment & Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for the applicant.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 in an envelope addressed to:
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DATE: February 18, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

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